

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3678

SECDEF

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS LONDON 12315

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, MCAP, UK , US, EG

SUBJ: SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT

SUMMARY: THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S 8 AUGUST 1975 ISSUE HEAD-  
LINES A STORY BY ITS AIR CORRESPONDENT "BRITAIN AND US  
FIGHT FOR EGYPT ARMS DEAL". THE COMPETITION IS BETWEEN  
MARCONI-ELLIOTT (UK) AND LITTON (US) TO SUPPLY EGYPT'S  
MIG 21 AIRCRAFT WITH THE LATEST INERTIAL WEAPONS DELIVERY  
SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S AIR CORRESPONDENT,  
"A NEW BATTLE HAS STARTED FOR THE SALE OF COSTLY MILITARY  
EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT, THIS TIME BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE  
UNITED STATES... MANY MILLIONS OF POUNDS ARE AT STAKE".  
THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE SALE IS COMPLICATED BY BRITISH  
AND US GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES. "BOTH WANT TO WOO EGYPT AWAY  
FROM RUSSIA BUT AT THE SAME TIME DO NOT WANT TO GET  
INVOLVED IN ISRAELI-ARAB POLITICS. INTER-COMPANY TIE-UPS  
ADD TO THE COMPLICATIONS. LITTON...IS ANXIOUS TO SELL ITS  
LW33 SYSTEM, WHICH DEPENDS LARGELY ON THE MARCONI-ELLIOTT  
.HEADS-UP DISPLAY'. THIS IS THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE  
SYSTEM... FERRANTI AND SMITHS INDUSTRIES HAVE A SIMILAR  
ADVANCED SYSTEM SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THE MRCA...  
THEY ARE IN A GOOD POSITION TO CAPTURE THE EGYPTIAN ORDER,  
BUT THE BRITISH SYSTEM -- THE AMERICANS CLAIM -- IS BASED  
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ON AN .INERTIAL PLATFORM' WHICH HAS AN AMERICAN GYRO

WHICH FERRANTI MANUFACTURES UNDER LICENCE. THIS MEANS THAT UNITED STATES APPROVAL WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN FOR ANY SALE TO EGYPT CAPTURED BY FERRANTI. BUT FERRANTI MAINTAINS THAT THE GYRO IT IS OFFERING IS OF ITS OWN DESIGN AND NOT SUBJECT TO AMERICAN LICENCE OR GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS..."

2. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ELABORATION WASHINGTON CAN GIVE TO ASSERTIONS MADE IN DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE. WE EXPECT SIR LESTER SUFFIELD/REGINALD ANDERSON OF BRITISH DEFENSE SALES ORGANIZATION MAY TAKE UP MATTER WITH US.

RICHARDSON

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